



IWA EXTERNAL BULLETIN

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STOP REPRESSION OF PROTESTERS IN BRAZIL!

EDITORIAL

Here is a new issue of IWA's External Bulletin, as previously excellently compiled articles by the IS of ZSP. The IWA Sections and Friends are active in IWA's 90th Anniversary and you will in this bulletin find articles about the IWA's International Days of Action against Job Cuts, Dismissals and in Support of the Struggle of Unemployed People that were from Monday June 17 to June 24!

The Sections and Friends focused on local issues and also on Urgent Actions of Solidarity that are going on in multinational companies. We will mention that unions/union Sections of the Spanish CNT-AIT have made appeals to support the fights against the lay-offs at Alstom Wind, dismissals at the company Capgemini and a dismissal of a worker at Esymo Metal- Gestamp, and they are supported by Sections etc.

As we wrote in the Secretariats Statement about the actions, contrary to the reformist unions, the International Workers Association (IWA) rejects integration into the capitalist system which is the root of misery of the working-class. The IWA was founded 90 years ago, and already at the founding Congress of the IWA in Berlin at the turn of 1922, it made resolutions against the unemployment which was dividing the working-class.

It was stated that the problems can't be solved within the capitalist system. But to reduce it they recommended shortening of the working hours, and later the IWA Congress in Liege (1928) initiated a world campaign for a 6 hour working day. Capitalism is an automatic machine that over and over again makes crisis, unemployment, wars and exploitation, and this bulletin shows actions made by IWA Sections against this evil system!

Oslo, June 24- 2013

IWA- Secretariat

IWA-website: www.iwa-ait.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/iwa.ait

No Dismissals at San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, thanks to Strike, Struggle and Militant Union Action

The San Raffaele Hospital in Milan had planned to fire 244 employees. This is not only a reaction to a financial crisis caused by corruption and mismanagement, but also part of moves to dismantle public health services. The comrades from USI-AIT unionized in the hospital decided to fight this. Rejecting an agreement signed with collaborationist unions in Rome, USI and another base union at the hospital, held actions, workers assemblies and a strike.

At the beginning of May, the hospital started dismissals. 64 workers were given notice. On May 8, a 24-hour strike took place. The strike was called by the workers of San Raffaele hospital in Milan organized in USI-AIT and USB unions. Unions from other hospitals in the Lombard region, who were in solidarity with these workers, and who have their own claims and concerns, joined the strike, including from CUB and COBAS union. All the workers knew that the same fate of the San Raffaele workers (dismissal) could meet any of them and that they need to fight together.

The strikers tried to go into the building of the local authorities but they met with big police force. Eventually, on May 9, negotiations took place.

USI published a number of detailed texts on the negotiations and agreements. Besides ensuring that the dismissals would not take place, they also managed to guarantee that the hospital would not be transferred to a private health contract. Here are extracts from a couple of USI texts:

" San Raffaele: If you struggle, you can get something

Following the last meeting at the regional office, which lasted 17 hours and ended on the morning of May 10, the negotiation phase ended, following the labor dispute that USI Health, along with other base unions, had brought against the management of San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, which wanted to dismiss 244 employees as a result of the crisis triggered by the mismanagement of the institution on the part of senior management.



Thanks to months of struggle and sacrifice, even heavy, by the workers, an agreement was signed that averts the dismissals and reinstates the 64 workers already laid off."

"From the Communiqué of USI Health on the Dispute in San Raffaele

The dispute of the San Raffaele in recent months has been, without doubt one of the most significant moments of social conflict in the health sector at national level, especially considering the whole context in which it is placed. The dispute involved a pilot project in the master strategy that over the years has led to the dismantling of the public health service in favor of private profit. The story of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan has largely shown the intent to transfer a quality service into the hands of a few large business castes. A process degenerated over time and that today is revealed in all its monstrosity: the conversion of health care into a commodity. After months of struggle with blockades, strikes and with the specter of repression by the administration increasingly evident, we signed the new draft agreement for San Raffaele on May 10, after negotiations which lasted about 17 hours. The agreement which was then ratified by the RSU and all the trade union organizations (USB, USI, LAS, CGIL, CISL and UIL), on May 17, after six meetings with the workers which were held to discuss the draft agreement. Where the assemblies were attended by more than 1,500 workers and there was an almost total plebiscite."

The comrades from USI also managed to ensure that disciplinary actions against struggling workers were dropped.

Actions Against Dismissals at Alstom



Protest at Alstom offices in Bratislava by Priama akcia.

The CNT in Zamora, which has a union in Alstom, called for protests against planned closures of 3 plants in Spain. In response, comrades made solidarity actions in Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Russia and Slovakia, in front of the multinational's offices.

Below we print the CNT Zamora's **Call for International Solidarity**.

Alstom is a French company and world leader in the infrastructure of energy generation and transmission and railway transport. The company is divided into five sectors: turbo generator systems, environment, services, transport and shipbuilding. It is present in about 100 countries in the world and has been involved in the generation and transmission of energy and railway transport in all of Spain since 1989.

In 2007 Alstom acquired the Spanish company Ecotecnia Energías Renovables S.L. with its technological patent and production plants and created Alstom Wind.

Alstom Wind in Spain is formed by the global technological center I+D in Barcelona, the turbine plant in Buñuel (Navarra), the tower construction plant in Coreses (Zamora), two electric component plants in As Somozas (A Coruña) and the maintenance of wind farms.

On March 26, 2013 Alstom presented a restructuring plan that would effect 373 employees in all the centers of production in Alstom Wind España and would close three plants: the 2 factories in As Somozas and the ones in Coreses.

Around the world, this company has many contracts (Brazil, Canada, Turkey, Finland, Argentina, etc...) and it reports many millions of profits even in this time of economic crisis. While it is constructing new wind generator plants, it is closing others. They want the workers to accept being goods that are used and then thrown out.

We believe that solidarity between the workers in the best weapon that we have against these predatory multinationals that abuse and neglect the workers for the purpose of economic profit.

You have to remember that this company receives contracts from the public administrations that are paid for with our taxes. They receive profits, revenues and financial and social privileges to run their businesses, but when the winds of the market change, they close up and go, leaving unemployment, deindustrialization, emigration and poverty. Alstom boasts about being a multinational involved in the social, economic and environmental aspirations of the communities where it works, but is thinking of leaving one of the most unfavourable provinces of Europe and the most deindustrialized in Spain (Zamora), from which youth flee due to lack of opportunities and which survives thanks to agriculture and livestock, which is in decline, at the edge of the abyss.

Transnationals like Alstom abound with the will and consent of states and the markets. For this reason we have to act and respond in any place in the world where they are doing business and to make it seen that both the workers of Alstom as well as the society in general do not accept this new humiliation.



Protest in at the Madrid office.

We are making an international call for solidarity to denounce this endemic problem provoked by the capitalist system that permits savage social inequalities in the world and which enslaves millions of people in order to earn their salaries in order that the economic, political, banking, warmongering classes continue to live with all their profits.

It is the time to organize and construct a society for people and not for markets and their beneficiaries.

We ask for your support and solidarity to show that you are against the closures and dismissals that Alstom plans. In any place in the world where Alstom is it should meet the response of the organized workers. Solidarity and international struggle against the global attack of capitalism.

CNT-AIT Zamora



Solidarity With Capgemini Workers against Dismissals

The Capgemini multinational plans to fire 370 workers in Spain. On May 17, workers went on strike for 24 hours and decided to have a longer strike starting May 23 if the company did not resign from its plans. However, the two biggest unions in the company, CCOO and UGT cancelled the strike without asking, hours before the planned assembly of workers.

Our comrades at the Telecommunication and IT Workers Union of the CNT Madrid are present at this company and called for solidarity. Several

sections of the IWA took action, going to Capgemini offices or sending protests and other types of support.

Report of the CNT-AIT's Day of Solidarity with the Capgemini Workers

As the result of the call by the Telecommunications and IT Services section of the CNT-AIT Madrid for a Day of Solidarity with the CNT-affiliated members and the workers of Capgemini, several trade unions and European sections of the IWA organized different actions to stop the redundancy plan that the management of this company presented against 370 workers.

This Day of Solidarity was called as part of the 24h strike that the subsidized unions organized as part of a program that will conclude, if Capgemini does not withdraw the redundancy plan, in an indefinite strike starting the 23rd of May.

The CNT members of this company participated in this 24h strike, as well as in yesterday's partial strikes, but taking a critical position with the Legal Representation of the Workers (CC.OO, U.G.T. and CIS-F), whose agreements with the company's management tolerated a previous redundancy plan the past year and the smaller scale firings that have been happening in 2012 and 2013.

In Madrid, SOV members established an informational picket at the company's facilities in Alcobendas, giving out leaflets and informing the high number of strikebreakers that went to work. In the rain, the action did not have any incidents, starting at 8.00 a.m. and with the presence of the subsidized trade unions members. The SOV Madrid finished this action not feeling satisfied because of the large number of strikebreakers that are not just working against our interests but, also, against theirs.

In Barcelona, the SOV joined this day, giving out leaflets in the company's buildings in Avenida Diagonal and calling on workers to join not only this 24h strike but any upcoming struggle. There they found another picket, without subsidized unions, that finished thanking the CNT members for solidarity.

From the Slovak section of the IWA, Priama Akcia sent a large number of emails to the company's headquarters in Paris, Bratislava and Madrid, showing the unacceptability of the firings and the precarization that the Spanish subsidy is carrying out and to position itself against the trash contracts that this multinational is using.

The Polish comrades of ZSP gave out solidarity leaflets in the company's headquarters in Warsaw collaborating with the actions in Spain but also showing the poor conditions of the workers in Poland. This country, and Slovakia, is receiving the jobs lost in Spain because there the labour is even cheaper, in a clear strategy of the management to cheapen and precarize the labor.

In Paris comrades picketed for an hour, giving out leaflets against the redundancy plan and noting the policies of the firm.

We want to close this account noting that the efforts of the CNT-AIT have been directed solely against the redundancy plan, to pressure the management of Capgemini to stop this road which they began more than a year ago, in which the standard is insecurity. In this regard, we demand that CCOO, U.G.T. and CSI-F do not use our strength and international solidarity to "make" this ERE or "correct" some of the clauses. The aim of the CNT-AIT is stopping and removing this plan, without mincing words, no agreements behind the scenes, behind closed doors.

We would like to express our sincere and warm gratitude to the comrades that have collaborated in the action, SOV Madrid, SOV Barcelona, the IT section of ZSP Warsaw and Priama Akcia Bratislava. We could not have developed this action without their collaboration.

NO MORE FIRING IN CAPGEMINI, FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE E.R.E. *

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IT SERVICES SECTION OF CNT-AIT, MADRID

<http://informaticamadrid.cnt.es>

(*E.R.E stands for Expediente de Regulación de Empleo. It is the conventional term to designate group dismissals in a company.)

Priama akcia activities (February 2013 – April 2013)

Ideš na brigádu? (Are You Going to Work via Student Contract?) campaign

PA has continued with the campaign related to precarious student work. We published an update of the brochure with the latest changes in the law related to student work from the workers's point of view. Thanks to posters related to the campaign in the streets, we were contacted by a worker with unpaid wages.

Web

- <http://www.priamaakcia.sk/kategoria/brigady>

Facebook

- <https://www.facebook.com/IdesNaBrigadu>



As a result of the **campaign against Otto Workforce** practises which PA is involved in together with Vrije Bond and ZSP we have recieved several e-mails from workers who were cheated by Otto. One of the worker agreed to publish his experiences on our website to warn other people.

PA joined a **call for solidarity from CNT-Zamora**. We published an article about the planned closures of Alstom factories in Spain and made a solidarity appeal with the possibility to send protest e-mails via our website. We paid a visit to the Alstom branch in Bratislava as well.

On 20th April PA members had a presentation at the **Anarchist Bookfair in Prague** (Czech Republic). We spoke about the connection between PA's practical activities and the publishing work of Nakladatel'stvo bod zlomu (Breakpoint Press), a working group of Priama akcia.

On 11th May PA members presented the organization and its core activities during the Let's wipe out differences and create alternatives event in Bratislava.

IWA Sections Celebrate May Day and Days of Action

This year IWA Days of Action coincided with May Day. On May 1 and the days immediately preceding it, various actions were held by IWA sections around the globe. The following are a few of the reported actions.

Argentina

Members of FORA held May Day rallies in a few cities such as Buenos Aires, Neuquen, Rosario and in the Andes region. Members of FORA called on workers to create free unions which will not be part of any compromises and reminded of the tradition of the organization.

Brazil



Activists of COB-FORGS organized a May Day action in Porto Alegre. They demonstrated, handed out leaflets, had a rally with speakers and played music. COB also organized a rally in Araxa, calling for the reduction of the working week to 30 hours without any reduction in pay and for workers' organization outside of the collaborationist unions. After the rally they demonstrated through the city and then had a concert.

Germany

In Dresden, the local FAU marched with the Libertarian Network (Fda, antifascists and others) in a libertarian May Day. It stopped at many places along the march, giving speeches and paid special attention to working conditions in restaurants, an area around which they are organizing. In Bonn, members of FAU also participated in a libertarian



May Day. In Berlin, members of FAU marched in a blok in the mainstream union demo. FAU members also participated in libertarian or anticapitalist marches in places such as Stuttgart, Erfurt, Bielefeld and Hannover. In Koln activists from FAU had a literature stand. In some other cities, members of FAU could also be seen in mainstream union demos. In Frankfurt some comrades took part in the blockade of a neo-nazi march in that city.

Italy

USI-AIT organized and took part in demonstrations in a few cities in Italy. In Trieste, members of USI took part in May Day with members of other libertarian organizations, from the area and from Slovenia.

In Parma, there was a demonstration of base unions organized by USI and CUB. In Florence, workers of the Carreggi hospital, where USI has an active union, organized their own May Day event, with a rally, picnic and concert. Other members of USI participated in the various libertarian May Days held around Italy.



Norway

The NSF made propaganda actions between April 29-May 1, handing out leaflets, mainly in the center of Oslo. The leaflet called "International Solidarity against social dumping" was mostly about the "the race to the bottom" in the aviation sector, but not only. It spoke about the local situation of SAS and how the company threatened the workers and con-vinced the unions to accept cuts and dismissals and the situation of Norwegian airlines, which threaten to move to Ireland or another country if the workers don't want lower salaries. Other situations, like that of the Iberia workers was mentioned the struggles of the CNT in that airline and of the situation of Alstom workers in Zamora. On May Day, they also went to the streets with a May Day leaflet.

Poland



In Poland there were several actions during these days.

From 27-30 of April, there were international solidarity actions for FIAT workers held in Poland and Serbia. This was important because workers are threatened with job relocation as a way to control their demands and FIAT moved 1400 jobs to Serbia, where the labor is cheaper and they will receive subsidies. Activists from ZSP and ASI coordinated actions at FIAT factories in Tychy, Bielsko-Biala, Kragujevac and a car dealership in Belgrade, calling for international solidarity and action in face of the measure of the capitalists.

On April 28, there was a protest in Warsaw against plans to evict people and send them to live in containers in the middle of nowhere.

The protest was met by a counterprotest organized by employees of the Bemowo City Hall.

On April 29, the Education Workers Union in Warsaw protested against new plans to cut the education budget which would mean the elimination of some classes for handicapped children, eliminating the maximum number of children in classes and cutting jobs and working hours, especially for school caretakers and administrative staff.



On May Day, members of ZSP in Wrocław took part in a May Day demonstration in their city, forming an anarchist blok with people from CRK social center and the Anarchist Federation. Before the demo, they leafletted fast food establishments and throughout the day distributed leaflets and the ZSP newspaper.

Portugal

Members of AIT-SP from Lisbon took part in an anarchist May Day in Setubal. In 2011 and 2012, the demos in this town were repressed by the police. As they passed through the working class area where they were attacked by police in 2011, they chanted that they are back there, without fear, without the law. People applauded and showed that they did not forget what had happened.



In Porto the comrades organized a libertarian memorial tour, then they set up an exhibition stand and a literature table and sang libertarian songs. There was also a street theater performance against the theft carried out by the government and bosses.

Russia



In Russia, members of KRAS participated in an anarchist May Day. The demonstration had many anarchist and social slogans and expressed support for striking medical workers in Izhevsk, calling on workers to organize in free unions and fight against capitalism's class war from above. They distributed copies of "Direct Action" dedicated to the struggle against social cuts.

Serbia

Members of ASI participated in solidarity actions with FIAT workers in Kragujevac and Belgrade. A video greeting with messages of solidarity was filmed and shown to Polish workers.



Spain



In Spain, the CNT organized their own demonstrations or participated in demos in cities and towns across the country. Thousands of people took part in the various actions. As usual, big demonstrations were held in Madrid and Barcelona. In the Basque region, the CNT demonstrated in Bilbao, Donostia, Iruñea and Gasteiz. In these cities, the union will participate in a general strike on May 30, but the union stressed that it needs to show that people are ready to do more than just have a 24-hour strike. In Valencia the CNT participated in an anti-capitalist blok, in Cordoba and Sevilla in alternative union demonstrations. In L'Hospitalet, Teruel, Compostela and some other towns, CNT participated in rallies with other organizations.

The CNT of Almeria and Adra, Salamanca, Granada, Pilar de la Horadada, Cadiz, Extremadura, Valladolid, Toledo, Tarragona, Olot, Palencia, Vigo, Lugo, Leon and Malaga, among others organized their own demonstrations, rallies, meals, discussions, concerts and other events. The different actions were so numerous, it is hard to mention or describe them all.



In Valladolid, the demonstration was not without incident as the police started to harass people and tried to arrest two women. Then, when the crowd reacted, the police attacked. The CNT of Valladolid denounced this incident.



Manchester SolFed had an action against Poundland, which uses Workfare, as part of their continuing protests against the unpaid labor scheme. It was held on May Day and was part of IWA days of action against Austerity, Exploitation and Oppression. Members of the local Anarchist Federation also took part. The activists distributed a few hundred leaflets at a shopping center with a Poundland shop, despite being harrassed by security guards.

In UK, most May Day parades were moved to the weekend. In London, some members of SolFed joined the main union event in Trafalgar Sq.

Actions by Friends and other Organizations

Members of the Anarchosyndicalist Federation in Melbourne took part in anarchist May Day celebrations. The Friends of the IWA from the Grupo Germinal in Chile demonstrated on May Day in Talcahuano and in Santiago de Chile. A few other organizations were invited to participate in the Days of Action. We received reports that the Anarchosyndicalist Initiative Romania made a May Day event, handing out leaflets in Constanta, Timisoara and Bucharest and hanging a banner on a bridge in Constanta. Also comrades from MASA in Croatia took part in an anti-capitalist blok in a May Day demonstration in Zagreb and in Rijeka they organized a demonstration and picnic.

First Balkan anarcho-syndicalist conference held in Belgrade

The first Balkan anarcho-syndicalist conference was held in Belgrade during the weekend, on 6th and 7th of April, hosted by Serbian comrades. Comrades from Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia participated, and comrades from Slovenia, Greece, Romania and Turkey were prevented from attending in the last moment, but sent their greetings to the Conference. Also, a delegate of the Secretariat of the International Workers Association (AIT-IWA) was present.

The Conference started with organizations and groups giving short introductions, presenting activities of their organizations and the political context in which they are operating. That was used as a base for further discussions which focused on topics such as regional coordination of the workers movement and perspectives of the revolutionary syndicalism, student struggles, anarcho-syndicalist response to nationalism, racism and fascism in the region, questions regarding liberalism and reformism in workers' movement and models of confronting them, security issues and strengthening of the movement's infra-structure in the region. Also, presentation of the IWA was organized, as well as practical discussion on the workplace struggles. The participants of the Conference finished the two day event with participation in a demonstration, organized by Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative, in front of the Serbian Ministry of Labor – against the new strike law, firings and unemployment.

Gathered comrades once again in practice underlined the points that are universal for all the workers in the Balkans, and the world, and once more upheld the principles of direct democracy, direct action and internationalism as the only way that the working class can take in its struggle for freedom. Balkan confederation was underscored as the only viable solution for peace and prosperity of the region, as a realistic alternative to any state project, which never brought anything good to the people of Balkans.

The common feeling is that the Conference was a successes, as it strengthened cooperation of the movement in the region, and provided a space for discussion and fruitful exchange of ideas as



well as basis for concrete joint activities. New models of communication were established between the participating groups and organizations, and there is a joint expectancy that this type of gathering will become something which will be happening on a regular basis.

Participants of the First Balkan Anarcho-Syndicalist Conference

Death to the state and capitalism!

Long live Balkan workers solidarity! Long live anarcho-syndicalism!

★★★

News and Activities from Poland

Freedom of speech for workers!

In a previous issue of the IWA Bulletin, ZSP explained about how various bosses were threatening it because we have been active in exposing poor and illegal working conditions in many firms. Currently one member is faced with a possible 25,000 euro lawsuit from a TV producer, whose workers took action against his practices.

A comrade who worked for the producer and his co-workers decided to take action against the practices of the producer, which included not paying workers for material they made under different pretexts. The workers set up an internet site to expose these practices and demand their pay. We were asked for support in this campaign.

The workers called the boss a “cheat” and “King of the Precariat”. We also published information from the workers and publicized their webpage. But the well-connected boss managed to get the webpage removed from its server. He also took some repressive measure against an ex-employee, getting the police to raid his home. Among other things, his computer was removed. The boss then

threatened to have a radical website where the workers published their information shut down. He tried in different ways but failed. The site refused to remove the complaints and testimony of the workers. The boss also demanded the information about who published this and the IP numbers of computers which they came from, but again the site refused.

Since the domain name of the site is registered to a comrade from ZSP, he became the object of the boss's threats. 25,000 euros is a few years' salary of an average worker and is very exaggerated. The ZSP responds that it will fight to defend both the comrade and the right of workers to discuss their working conditions, which the ruling classes try in all ways to limit. We will make a new campaign addressed to media workers, many of whom work in precarious conditions, and a campaign in defense of free speech for workers, with fundraising to help defend those who are facing the retaliation of the bosses.

Another Stupid Attempt at Repression

The City Hall in Warsaw tried to get our comrade prosecuted for a comment on Facebook. The political angle of this attempted repression was clear: there were many clashes between the local ZSP and City Hall. However the issue caught public interest, with many newspaper and magazine articles and commentaries on it and it also became a topic on TV debates. So City Hall wound up looking quite bad as public support was behing the comrade. After a few months, the Prosecutor decided to drop the case. City Hall has filed a complaint against this decision.

Protests against Cuts and Dismissals in Schools

The ZSP Education Workers Union in Warsaw has been protesting against planned cuts and dismissals in schools. The city has been making various problems: the working hours of many specialists such as speech therapists or psychologists are being raised, school caretakers are getting their hours reduced to ¾, there are many dismissals planned and the school does not want any limit to the number of children they can put in a class. Since the announced cuts, there have been a few protests, in front of City Hall and at the City Council. More actions are planned.



At the last action in the City Council, more than 300 people protested, mainly public transport drivers fighting against cuts to their benefits, but ZSP also was there and even managed to set up a table. Unfortunately, different teachers' unions try to keep their members away from these actions, basically away from other unions. But ZSP calls for joining efforts by the rank and file, irrespective of what their unions bosses are doing. The attacks on the transport workers and on teachers are part of the same politics. So we encouraged the transport workers to support protests of teachers and protests against the cuts in education.



People are very angry, trying to recall the President of Warsaw through a referendum. (We are critical of some aspects of this action but recognize it as a protest against the neoliberal terror in this city.) Despite the anger, organized labor is keeping workers, especially teachers, in line.

Around Poland, more than 15,000 teachers will lose their jobs this year. Many thousands of other education workers will either face work increases (for the same pay) or may see other negative changes to their conditions.

The main teachers unions have not even made any mass demonstrations (never mind strikes) in almost 10 years, despite the closure of hundreds of schools,

schools and the dismissals of thousands of teachers. However, around Poland conflicts are happening, with even several occupations of schools in the past couple of years. Most protests on education now are organized either by groups of parents which organize, or by some small unions like ZSP or some citizens' initiatives.

★★★

Fighting against the Elimination of the 8-hour day

Shortly before the publication of this bulletin, in June 2013. the Polish parliament voted to amend the Labor Code and the Act on Trade Unions. The effect is to basically eliminate the guaranteed 8-hour working day.

Among the other problems with the new law is that it undermines the power of unions to collectively bargain by giving individual workers the power to decide if they agree to work 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. Workers who are desperate for a job can agree to anything and this is an incentive for bosses to hire new people on worse conditions.

If a company wants people to work 72 hours a week for a shorter period than one year, they can. And then they can tell the worker that they are not needed for the rest of the time – and during this time pay only minimum wage. The effect is that many workers may be facing drastic wage cuts due to this mechanism.

The mainstream unions failed to react strongly to these changes and were completely ignored by the government. Now the largest union (Solidarity) plans to hold a general strike in September. It will probably be a one-day symbolic action, so we will agitate for longer and harder action amongst the workers.

ZSP was the first to react to this situation, with protests in a few cities. It will be making protests and informational actions throughout the summer.



ZSP Days of Action Related to Housing

From March 21-28, IWA sections

participated in actions related to housing. ZSP organized various actions in Warsaw, related to ongoing struggles, against gentrification and against attacks on working class and poor people on the part of those profiting from their dislocation: investors and politicians.

Starting from March 21, we reactivated the Okrzejowki Brigades. These Brigades were called into existence at the end of 2011 to patrol the Praga neighbourhood in Warsaw against arson attacks by gentrifiers and to build community self-defense. They were successful and for over one year the attacks of the gentrifiers stopped. After a new wave of arson attacks against poor people in areas attractive for developers, the ZSP Warsaw reactivated the brigades.

On March 23, there was a protest related to the extreme negligence of the city and the firms building a metro line in this same neighbourhood. Due to a lack of any safety measures, buildings are suffering great damage and falling. People have been forced out of their homes; others are fighting for protection from the consortium that refuses to provide any. The office of ZSP is right on the street where the metro is being built and it is likely that the building across the street will be evacuated. Despite the freezing cold, neighbours came to speak out against this situation. All condemned the criminal behaviour of the city and consortium and expressed the opinion that they were intentionally letting the construction ruin one of the only areas of the city which survived the Nazi decimation in order to clear the terrain for the future profits of developers.

Finally, all during the week, we will be going around the neighbourhood, leafleting, postering and continuing with other actions against gentrification and for community direct action and self-defense, calling for popular assemblies and popular control of public housing.



Action of KRAS-IWA on the housing problem

On Sunday, March 31, from 12:00 to 13:00, several militants and supporters of the KRAS-IWA, members of the movement against the “spot-housing building” and other independent social activists held a protest picket in the city of Dmitrov, near Moscow.

The rally was timed to coincide with the IWA days of struggle on housing.

The question of so-called “spot building” (analogue to “spot bombing”) is very pressing in Dmitrov, as in many other Russian cities. It is about the politics of constructing luxury and commercial housing in the immediate vicinity of other houses, in the place of parks and green spaces, etc. The authorities give permission for it, exclusively in the interest of private construction firms, and despite the protests of the population. This building is not accompanied by the construction of new schools and kindergartens, heat and water supply are not adapted to the increasing needs. The “spot building” as an element of urban policy is dictated only by considerations of material benefit and it makes the quality of life and environmental conditions of the entire city even worse.

The local media and the internet resources of the city were previously informed about the upcoming picket. Originally it was planned to be held in front of the city government but the authorities move it to an area in front of the City Palace of Culture. The action attracted people who were not indifferent to the matter raised and wanted to exchange views, as well as to make contacts for the organization of a broader joint struggle. Among them were activists from neighbouring communities. There were also just people who saw the text on the posters and came to express their support for the issue. The picket was covered by “Dmitrovsky Vestnik” newspaper and “Dmitrov Online Video Review – DIVO”. During an impromptu press conference, the organizers spoke about the problem of “spot building” in the city and urged residents not to wait until the building will come to their backyard, in the vicinity of their homes, but to connect from below and to fight for their rights.

KRAS in Defence of Health Care Workers and the Public Health Care Sector



KRAS has been continuing its protests in defense of the public health care sector, against any worsening of conditions for health care workers.

On February 9, in the framework of an inter-regional protest against the policies of destroying generally accessible public health care, a protest was held on Novopushkinski Sq. Rallies and pickets were also held in Izhevsk, Vladivostok and other cities. Prior to this, there was also a protest of about 300 medical workers and supporters in Orenburg on Jan. 26 and pickets in defense of hospitals in Petersburg and Yekaterinburg on February 8.

Around 300 people took part in the rally in Moscow, including activists of KRAS. People were there protesting against the closure of hospitals but also there were those calling for the formation of independent unions. One doctor spoke of many concrete facts against the so-called "reforms". Activists spoke of the need to act more energetically against the cuts and the destruction of the public health care system. KRAS distributed leaflets with an anarchosyndicalist view of the anti-social reforms. A speaker from KRAS underlined the international character of the attacks of the state and capital around the world under the labels of "cuts", "tough economies", "commercialization" and "streamlining" public services. In most of the countries of the world, workers are fighting for their dignity and lives and against the class war from above. Russian workers, for now, have yet to go to the frontlines and struggle for their rights, which only helps the state and capital to strengthen their yoke on them.

While thousands of people go on political marches to fight over what clique will get to rule over us, only a few hundred go on protests concerning social problems which affect us all. It is a shame. It's time for us to get up off our knees. If instead of 300 people we had 25,000, like happened recently in Lewisham in the UK, the authorities might not be brave enough to close down the hospitals. The speaker from KRAS called on people to organize themselves, independently from political parties and for hospital workers to form independent unions, without bureaucrats, paid union leaders or illusions about social partnership – unions which could not only fight for the interests of workers, but lead the struggle for a self-managed society, which health care, like all other services, would be equally accessible for all.

On April 20, another rally was held in Moscow, as part of a nationwide action against the destruction of health care in the country. A few under people took part – health care workers, social activists and other citizens. The protest was held while workers of a children's hospital were holding partial strikes in Izhevsk.

Rallies and pickets were held in over 20 cities, including Bryansk, Vladivostok, Volgograd, Yekaterinburg, Ivanovo, Izhevsk, Kazan, Kirov, Novosibirsk, Perm, Petersburg, Tomsk and others. The participants protested against the economic policies of closing hospitals and clinics under claims of "reorganization", against the commercialization of free health care, with the aim of making some people rich and against the low salaries and bad working conditions of medical workers.

The protestors expressed their solidarity with the striking workers in Izhevsk and called on their colleagues around the world to join in an indefinite strike. Members of KRAS supported the demands made and had their own slogans and banners, concerning not only health care, but also more general social themes – for example "Schools are not bazaars, hospitals are not markets! There are things which are not for sale!" "General public education and health care is a right!", etc. From our point of view, the attacks on public health care is part of a general policy of the government to cut social spending, a brutal attack on our rights and a future cruel class war carried out against us from above.

One more Year for the F.O.R.A

"Solidarity is not decreed, it is inherent to the species"

(V Congress of FORA)

For 112 years, a joint force of workers created the bases of a Workers Federation which would in a bit take the name of the Regional Workers Federation of Argentina (Federación Obrera Regional Argentina), defining itself as international, anticapitalist and revolutionary in character.

Starting with the initial agreements, our comrades started to forge a tool of resistance against the state, politics and dogma, against oppression, domination and exploitation, with federalist mechanisms which permit the necessary debates and the interchange of ideas, proposals and opinions in free assemblies, without the mediation of directors or the use of paid positions.

En efecto, si la F.O.R.A. aun existe es porque las Sociedades de Resistencia le otorgan vida con su accionar cotidiano, construyendo una trama de acciones solidarias que articuladas fraternalmente gestan un potente movimiento de resistencia proletaria al sistema del capital-mercancía.

Indeed, if the F.O.R.A. still exists it is because the Societies of Resistance give life to its daily activities, building a network of solidarity actions whose articulations fraternally shape a powerful proletarian resistance movement to the capitalist-mercantile system.

Throughout its history, our organization has been a protagonist in the social struggles, from the confrontation with the repressive laws against proletarian action, to the residency and social order laws, to events like the tenant strike of 1907.

Many strikes in the whole region were made by the member organizations of the F.O.R.A. During the XX century, in the cities as well as in the small towns, the actions of the militants and activists of our organization put Societies of Resistance afoot to fight against the oppression of capital and the State and its minions.

The conflict of La Forestal, the strikes of laborers and woodcutters in the Pampa, the strikes like in



January 1919 and those of the Rebellious Patagonia, are milestones where the F.O.R.A. was in the first line of the proletarian struggle with the direct action of its militants.

Since its first congresses, FORA has raised the necessity of the integral transformation of the society now existing under the rule of the state and capital, addressing various aspects of this domination.

With its view fixed on the future of humanity, the militants claimed the existence of the FORA as a historical current and one of combat which denies anyone the right to subject anybody through the political power of the state. While aiming at the abolition of the political and economic tyranny as well as the effective emancipation of the working class.

Today, in these hours of repression and criminalization, when the network between the government, its agents and the forces of the capitalist social order imprison, repress and evict those who are fighting for social demands all over the world, we salute and welcomingly embrace all the comrades that suffer and maintain the commitment and the vital force of the ideals of communism and anarchy.

For the social revolution!
¡Viva la FORA!

Federación Obrera Regional Argentina
(F.O.R.A. - A.I.T.)

IWA DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISMISSALS

From June 14-21, the IWA held a week of actions against unemployment and dismissals. As this bulletin was being made, we had received information about some of the actions. More descriptions of actions may be printed in the next bulletin.

The Hull Solidarity Federation joined the days with another picket against Workfare, a scheme which acts against the unemployed. They picketed Poundland and are doing this regularly to pressure them to resign from using the unemployed as free labor.

The ZSP, NSF and Priama akcia made solidarity actions for the striking workers of Alstom in Spain on June 18. Posters were put up and leaflets distributed in Warsaw, Oslo and Bratislava in response to the call of the CNT Zamora, which has been involved in this conflict. Alstom wants to shut down three factories and dismiss hundreds of workers. Inside Spain there were also pickets, for example one made in Madrid by the Metal Workers' Union.



Priama akcia also visited the offices of Edscha, to show solidarity with a comrade from CNT fired from Esymo Metal, which is part of the same group.

In Portugal and Norway, the AIT-SP and NSF did some leafletting actions. The NSF protested against dismissals at Alstom and the AIT-SP went to employment offices.

In Spain the CNT had various actions against dismissals and unemployment. In Valladolid there was a demonstration against unemployment and against dismissals in Autonieta Ford. The union in Leganes called two demonstrations against unemployment.

The Local Federation of Unions of the CNT in Madrid called a couple of leafletting actions against unemployment and a picket of the Assembly of the Unemployed. There was an action to demand the reinstatement of a comrade fired from Synesis.



There was also a picket at a FORD dealership, related to the situation in Autonieta Ford.

The newly formed Union of the Unemployed of FAU Berlin held a solidarity action with the situation of workers and unemployed in Poland.



This is because the government plans to take away benefits and health care from any unemployed person who refuses to take any job – a certain recipe for increasing the amount of shit offers given to the unemployed. Members of FAU and ZSP also told about how international solidarity was needed between workers to fight together.

In Poland, besides the solidarity action for the Alstom workers, members of ZSP postered and leafleted Capgemini, which is threatening many dismissals in Spain. Our comrades from the CNT Madrid are involved in this struggle.

We continued agitating and leafletting against dismissals in schools. This will be an ongoing campaign. We also gave out leaflets at some unemployment offices. In Wroclaw the ZSP protested the new plans of the government. In Warsaw we also held a protest against both these plans of the government in respect to the unemployed and against the recent elimination of the guaranteed 8-hour working day.

